Confidential

Rep. Ben Ray Luján

Democratic Congressman in New Mexico's
3rd Congressional District

REPUBLICAN ATTACKS ON DEMOCRATS
113th Congress
Updated May 2014

Prepared by the
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
Research Department

NOTE: These votes are written with Republican attack language, taken from NRCC press releases, attack ads, Republican talking points and floor speeches. Research and citations used to push these claims have been taken directly from NRCC press releases or Republican talking points.

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Introduction

DT: November 2014
TO: Campaign of Rep. Luján
FR: DCCC Research
RE: Update – Republican Attacks on Rep. Luján

The following report contains research on Rep. Luján's voting record. These votes are written with Republican attack language, taken from NRCC press releases, attack ads, Republican talking points and floor speeches. Research and citations used to push these claims have been taken directly from NRCC press releases or Republican talking points.

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AGRICULTURE

Supported Critical Assistance for Families and Farmers While Reducing the Deficit

In January 2014, Luján voted for the final farm bill conference report, a bill that provided needed security for families and farmers while cutting wasteful government spending.

Speaker John Boehner said: "All Americans stand to benefit in some way from this farm bill, which maintains critical assistance for families in need and improves programs for producers while cutting the cost of government." [Speaker.gov, 1/29/14]

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas said: "The Agricultural Act contributes major savings to deficit reduction, significant reforms to policy, and yet still provides a safety net not only for the production of American food and fiber, but also to ensure our fellow citizens have enough food to eat." [Committee on Agriculture Press Release, 1/29/14]

The bill passed 251-166. [HR 2642, Vote #31, 1/29/14]

> **ALTERNATE: Voted for Bloated Farm Bill Packed with Taxpayer Subsidies for Special Interests**
>
> In January 2014, Luján voted for the final farm bill conference report, a bloated $1 trillion proposal packed with taxpayer subsidies for special interests and massive spending on food stamps.
>
> Club for Growth wrote: "For starters, this 949-page bill is yet another bloated proposal that House and Senate leaders are rushing through […] True reform would also include implementing a plan to devolve the food stamp program to the states and eventually eliminate federal agricultural subsidies. This bill is well short of that goal. Instead, it's a 'Christmas Tree' bill where there's a gift for practically every special interest group out there with a well-connected lobbyist, including the fresh-cut Christmas tree industry!" [Club for Growth, 1/28/14]
>
> Heritage Action wrote: "Despite claims of reform, the bill continues to spend nearly $1 trillion on a variety of programs, including significant taxpayers subsidies to agribusiness, green energy handouts, conservation programs and of course the massive food stamp program […] The "farm" bill means more expenses for taxpayers and higher costs for consumers. It means more unnecessary government dependence for wealthy farmers and food stamp recipients." [Heritage Action, 1/28/14]
>
> The bill passed 251-166. [HR 2642, Vote #31, 1/29/14]

Voted Against Providing Congress With Tool to Stop Water and Land Grabs

In 2014, Luján voted against stopping the federal government from pilfering privately-held water rights.

The Water Rights Protection Act would the water rights of communities, businesses, farmers and ranchers from federal government land grabs. [MajorityLeader.gov, 3/12/14]

The bill passed, 238-174. [HR 3189, Vote #132, 3/13/14]

Voted Against Strengthening Welfare Programs and Protecting Taxpayers from Waste and Fraud

In September 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would save taxpayers more than $39 billion by reforming the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to root out waste, fraud and abuse.

The bill would prevent states from waving work requirements for able-bodied adults, would require those adults to work at least 20 hours per week to be eligible for SNAP payments, and would encourage state governments to help recipients find work. The bill would also deny benefits to anyone convicted of murder, rape or child molestation and permit states to conduct drug tests on applicants.

Speaker John Boehner said, “H.R. 3102 makes getting individuals back to work a priority again within our welfare programs while protecting the neediest families.” [Speaker.gov, 9/19/13]

The bill passed 217-210. [HR 3102, Vote #476, 9/19/13]

Voted Against Desperately Needed Reforms to Farm Bill

In July 2013, Luján voted against a farm bill that would authorize $196 billion for federal farm programs through FY 2018. House Republicans removed funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program from the farm bill.

The bill would repeal direct payments to farmers and replace them with new risk management programs. The bill would also repeal portions of the “permanent law,” laws from 1938 and 1949 that set agricultural support levels in the case of a farm bill expiration, and replace them with a provision making the bill’s commodity title the new permanent law. The bill would reduce agricultural spending by $12.9 billion over ten years.

“This is a victory for farmers and conservatives who desired desperately needed reforms to these programs. The work will now continue, and we hope Senate Democrats will not obstruct reform because the status quo isn't working,” Majority Leader Eric Cantor said in a statement. [Leader Cantor statement, 7/11/13]

The bill passed, 216-208. [HR 2642, Vote #353, 7/11/13; CQ House Action Reports, HR 2642, 7/10/13; New York Times, 7/11/13]

Voted Against Fiscally Irresponsible Farm Bill Keeping Welfare for Corporations, Soviet-Style Price Controls, and Billions in Entitlement Spending

In June 2013, Luján voted against a fiscally irresponsible farm bill maintaining taxpayer funded welfare for farm corporations and billions in food stamp spending.

The Legislative Affairs Manager at FreedomWorks wrote that the bill was "a disasterpiece of corporate welfare, Soviet-style price controls, and entitlement spending" and criticized that the policies in the bill had "contributed to the demise of the small farmer by pouring money into wealthy farm corporations."

"Yet Republicans who want their farm subsidies to pass use food stamps as an $800 billion earmark to get Democrats to help pass the farm bill," wrote FreedomWorks. "With all of the things that are wrong with this abomination of a bill, there is no way any fiscal conservative should ever vote for it." [RedState, 6/19/13]

The bill failed, 195-234. [HR 1947, Vote #286, 6/20/13]

ALTERNATE: Voted Against Balanced Bill Providing Safety Net for America's Farmers

In June 2013, Luján voted against a balanced farm bill providing a safety net for America's farmers and ranchers while implementing needed reforms.

The American Farm Bureau said the farm bill "was a balanced bill that would have provided much needed risk management tools and a viable economic safety net for America's farmers and ranchers." [American Farm Bureau Federation, 6/20/13]

The National Farmers Union wrote: "FARRM makes significant, much-needed reforms to agriculture programs, including significant deficit reduction." [National Farmers Union, 6/12/13]

The bill failed, 195-234. [HR 1947, Vote #286, 6/20/13]

BUDGET

Voted Against Balancing the Budget and Strengthening Medicare

In 2014, Luján voted against a balanced budget that would strengthen Medicare.

Speaker John Boehner said: "With this balanced budget, Republicans are continuing to build on our plan to get Americans working again. This fiscal blueprint helps people who work hard and do the right thing by promoting an all-of-the-above energy strategy, overhauling the tax code, repealing Obamacare, strengthening entitlement programs, and beginning to pay down our debt." [Speaker.gov, 4/01/14]

The budget passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Voted Against Saving Taxpayers $10 Billion While Ensuring All Americans are Treated Fairly Under Obamacare

In 2014, Luján voted against a bill that would delay Obamacare's individual mandate tax for one year for all Americans. Townhall reported that Congressional Budget Office estimates found the bill would cut the deficit by $10 billion over five years. [Townhall, 3/05/14]

"While millions of Americans are forced to bear the brunt of the law's failings, many more have been spared, not once but twice, through the President's decision not to enforce the Employer mandate provision of the law," Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy said. "Today's legislation ensures not just some, but all Americans do not have to pay the individual mandate penalty. This is simply an issue of fairness." [MajorityWhip.gov, 5/05/14]

The bill passed, 250-160. [HR 4118, Vote #97, 3/05/14]

Supported $1 Trillion Bill that Increased Wasteful Spending, Including for Obamacare

In January 2014, Luján voted for a $1.1 trillion spending bill that increased wasteful spending and allowed for a funding loophole for Obamacare.

Heritage Action urged Congress to oppose the bill and criticized: "It allows for an Obamacare funding loophole by 'provid[ing] a funding lifeline through user fees." [Heritage Action, 1/14/14]

Club for Growth urged a "no" vote and said: "It funds ObamaCare, plusses up other wasteful programs, and contains dozens of policy riders that can only be described as earmarks." [Club for Growth, 1/14/14]

The bill passed 359-67. [HR 3547, Vote #21, 1/15/14]

Supported Assumption that Washington Should Spend More Each Year

In 2014, Luján voted against the Baseline Reform Act, a bill that would end the assumption that Washington must spend more each year by reforming the way that the Congressional Budget Office calculates baseline spending assumptions. [FreedomWorks, 2/02/12]

Speaker John Boehner said the bill "rejects the assumption that Washington must spend more every year, making it easier to control spending and direct taxpayer dollars where they're needed most." [Speaker.gov, 4/08/14]

The bill passed, 230-185. [HR 1871, Vote #168, 4/08/14]

Voted Against Forcing Washington to Be Upfront About the Costs of Legislation

In 2014, Luján voted against a bill that would require the Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget to accurately account for government loans and federal credit programs – like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – so taxpayers can understand the risks behind Washington's decisions.

Congressman Paul Ryan said, "The Budget and Accounting Transparency Act would force Washington to be upfront about the costs of its decisions." [budget.house.gov, 4/07/14]

The bill passed, 230-165. [HR 1872, Vote #166, 4/07/14]

Voted for Budget Bill that Increased Spending and Taxes

In December 2013, Luján voted for a two-year budget agreement that would raise taxes to pay for $63 billion in increased spending.

Americans for Prosperity criticized: "For starters, it increases fees (taxes) on flying…the money is simply going to the overall budget. It is thus a tax hike… Congressional leaders including supposed fiscal hawk Paul Ryan are going along with higher spending." [Americans for Prosperity, 12/11/13]

FreedomWorks criticized: "The proposed plan would increase spending $63 billion above the budget caps set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 […] Congressman Ryan claims that the plan doesn't raise taxes. But whether the government collects more revenue by fees, taxes, tariffs, excises or penalties, the government is still taking more of your money to pay for its spending addiction." [FreedomWorks, 12/10/13]

Club for Growth criticized: "This deal is the 'same old same old' that Americans have come to expect from Washington. It's a deliberate attempt to avoid modest, but much needed spending cuts in exchange for the promise of spending cuts in

the future. It also includes revenue increases that do nothing to reduce the size of government." [Club for Growth, 12/12/13]

The bill passed, 332-94. [HJ Res 59, Vote #640, 12/12/13]

ALTERNATIVE: Voted for Budget Deal Cutting Veterans Pensions by $6 Billion

In December 2013, Luján voted for a budget agreement including $6 billion in cuts to military retirement increases.

The agreement would reduce annual cost-of-living increases for military retirees under 62 by one percent. The reduction would save $6 billion over the next decade.

The bill passed, 332-94. [HJ Res 59, Vote #640, 12/12/13]

ALTERNATIVE: Voted for Bipartisan Budget Deal to Prevent Future Shutdowns, Provide Relief from Sequestration, and Reduce the Deficit

In December 2013, Luján voted for a bipartisan two-year budget agreement that would reduce the deficit while providing relief from sequestration and averting another government shutdown.

Politico reported: "The framework amounts to a modest deal that averts another government shutdown, replaces the sequester and provides a level of certainty on spending that hasn't been seen in Washington for several years […] The bipartisan package includes $63 billion of 'sequester relief,' $85 billion of total savings, and $23 billion in net deficit reduction." [Politico, 12/10/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said: "The legislation before the House today will reduce our deficit, it will make long term pension reforms, and it will do so without raising taxes on hard working middle class families of our country. This budget deal also protects our national security at home and around the world by preventing dramatic cuts to our national defense as a result of the sequester." [MajorityLeader.gov, 12/12/13]

The bill passed, 332-94. [HJ Res 59, Vote #640, 12/12/13]

Voted for Reckless Increase of National Debt

In February 2014, Luján voted for suspending the national debt limit, giving government a "blank check to spend and borrow."

Heritage Action criticized: "This is extremely reckless given our nation's $17.3 trillion debt. Every American household already owes more than $140,000 on the debt." [Heritage Action, 2/11/14]

Club for Growth wrote: “Something is very wrong with House leadership, or with the Republican Party. This is not a bill that advocates of limited government should schedule or support.” [Club for Growth, 2/11/14]

The bill passed 221-201. [S 540, Vote #61, 2/11/14]

Voted Against Bipartisan Bill Funding Port and Water Infrastructure Programs

In October 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan bill to fund water infrastructure projects while implementing needed reforms and eliminating wasteful projects.

The bill would authorize committees with jurisdiction over port and water infrastructure to include funding in their budgets while de-authorizing $12 billion in wasteful funding for old and inactive projects.

“Our bill cuts red tape, reforms the bureaucracy, and accelerates project delivery,” said Republican Congressman Bill Shuster. “It also consolidates or eliminates duplicative or unnecessary studies and requires concurrent reviews.” [The Hill, 9/19/13]

Speaker John Boehner said: “It’s another example of the People’s House focusing on ways to strengthen our economy and expand opportunity for all Americans, and I’m proud that it passed with a strong bipartisan vote.” [Speaker.gov, 10/23/13]

The bill passed 271-147. [HR 385, Vote #555, 10/23/13]

Voted Against Only Plan to Balance the Budget

In 2013, Luján voted against the only plan to balance the budget. [H Con Res 25, Vote #88, 3/21/13]

The NRCC attacked Democrats for believing “we don’t need to balance the budget – ever – and we can tax and spend our way to economic growth. Americans are looking for leaders who understand that, in order to create jobs, Washington must balance their budget, just like families do.” [NRCC press release, 3/21/13]

Voted Against ‘No Budget No Pay’ Act

In January 2013, Luján voted against the No Budget No Pay Act, which would suspend members’ salary payments in either chamber that did not adopt a fiscal 2014 budget passed by April 15, 2013. The salaries of the chamber that did not pass a budget by that date would be placed into an escrow account and would not be released until a budget was adopted or until the last day of the 113th Congress.

The NRCC attacked Democrats who voted against the bill as wanting to “stand up for [his/her] own interests than those hard working” families back home. [NRCC press release, 2/18/13]

The bill passed, 285-44. [HR 325, Vote # 30, 1/23/13]

Voted for Ultra-Liberal Government-Run Public Option for Health Care

In 2013, Luján voted for a plan to “go even further than Obama and enact a government-run, public option.” [H Con Res 25, Vote #85, 3/21/13]

The NRCC attacked Democrats who voted for the Congressional Progressive Caucus’ budget for voting to enact a public option for health care, as well as “a carbon tax and higher taxes” on the coal industry. [NRCC press release, 5/01/13]

Voted Present on a Balanced Budget in Four Years

In 2013, Luján voted present on the Republican Study Committee budget for fiscal year 2014 that would balance the budget in four years while cutting discretionary spending and adequately funding defense.

The amendment failed 104-132. [H Con Res 25, Vote #86, 3/20/13; RSC FY14 budget]

> **RSC Budget Cut Discretionary Spending to $950 Billion.** According to the Republican Study Committee, their budget “cuts discretionary spending to $950 billion (just below the 2008 approved by Nancy Pelosi), and freezes it until the budget balances in 2017. Defense spending is set at the same level as the House Budget Committee proposal. Non-defense shrinks from $398 billion in 2014 to $392 billion in 2023. [RSC FY14 budget]
>
> **RSC Budget Adopts a Flatter, Fairer Tax Code.** Adopts the RSC's Jobs Through Growth Act's tax proposal, which gives taxpayers the flexibility of opting into a simpler, flatter, and fairer tax code than what currently exists. [RSC FY14 budget]

Voted for Irresponsible Budget that Raises Taxes, Includes More Stimulus, Costs Jobs

In 2013, Luján voted for a version of the 2014 budget, introduced by Republican Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina, which was a virtual copy of the Senate Democratic budget.

The NRCC called on Democrats to “reject this budget that will have devastating effects for the middle class,” through an unbalanced Democrat budget with “higher taxes and a new stimulus.” [NRCC press release, 3/18/13]

The amendment failed 154-261. [H Con Res 25, Vote #83, 3/20/13]

Budget Would Cost Thousands of Jobs

In a press release going to six separate districts, the NRCC attacked: "On top of all that, a new report shows that by supporting this Democrat budget, Mike McIntyre will cost North Carolina more than 26,000 jobs." [NRCC, 3/18/13]

Budget Included Nearly $1 Trillion in Tax Hikes

According to Politico, "$975 billion would be raised through an overhaul of the Tax Code by eliminating certain tax deductions, including ones typically claimed by high earners and corporations" in the Senate budget. [Politico, 3/12/13]

Included $100 Billion in New Stimulus

"But since Murray's budget also sets aside $100 billion for economic stimulus measures — $50 billion on repairing highest transportation priorities, $10 billion on projects of major regional importance and the rest on other items like worker training — the total savings will be measured at $1.85 trillion." [Huffington Post, 3/12/13]

Murray Budget Would Not Balance the Budget

"The Murray plan would not balance the budget in a 10-year timeframe like the Ryan proposal, which calls for $4.63 trillion in deficit savings over 10 years." [Politico, 3/12/13]

Voted Against Cutting House Committee Budgets

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill to provide $241 million in the 113th Congress for the 19 standing committees of the House and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The appropriations bill specifically authorized the Committee on House Administration to make House Committee budgets compliant with the Budget Control Act (sequestration), which would impose an average 11 percent cut from amounts authorized for committees in the 112th Congress.

Rep. Candice Miller said that Congress was "making cuts to our budgets in a way that any American business or American family would have to… We must remain, as well, committed to leading by example in cutting government waste, rooting out inefficiencies, and conducting essential and efficient oversight of our vast administrative agencies." [Congressional Record, page H1592, 3/19/13]

The bill passed the House 272-136. [HR 115, Vote #82, 3/19/13]

DISASTER RELIEF

Voted Against Critical Funding for FEMA During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

The bill passed 247-164. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/04/13; HJ Res 522, Vote #522, 10/04/13]

Voted to Provide Almost $10 Billion in Flood Insurance Relief Without Corresponding Savings

In January 2013, Luján voted for expanding the National Flood Insurance Program's borrowing authority by $9.7 billion without including any necessary reforms or corresponding savings.

Club for Growth criticized: "Congress should not allow the federal government to be involved in the flood insurance industry in the first place, let alone expand the national flood insurance program's authority [...] They should strip out all the immaterial line items, and fully offset all expenditures with spending cuts elsewhere." [Club for Growth, 1/04/13]

The bill passed, 354-67. [HR 41, Vote #7, 1/04/13]

Voted to Spend Billions for Non-Sandy Expenses

In January 2013, Luján voted to provide $51 billion in emergency aid to victims of Hurricane Sandy. The governors of New York and New Jersey previously requested $82 billion in aid to cover damage in their states.

The aid would be directed to those victims whose homes were damaged or destroyed, as well as to business owners who suffered heavy losses. The package would also pay for repairing transit systems, fixing bridges and tunnels, reimbursing local governments for emergency spending, and replenishing shorelines. [New York Times, 1/28/13]

In a press release, Rep. Paul Ryan noted that the legislation "proposes to spend billions of dollars for 64 programs across 17 agencies," including for non-Sandy expenses, including highway repairs in the Virgin Island and roof repairs in Washington, DC. [Paul Ryan press release, 1/15/13]

The bill passed, 241-180. [HR 152, Vote #23, 1/15/13]

Voted Against Responsibly Offsetting Relief Funds with Cuts to Military

In January 2013, Luján voted against an amendment sponsored by Congressman Mick Mulvaney that would require a 1.63 percent cut to all discretionary spending to offset the original $17 billion Hurricane Sandy relief bill.

Republican Congressman Bill Young, chairman of the Appropriations Defense subcommittee, said he opposed the amendment because it would cut military pay. Politico reported that amendment would include cuts to the Pentagon's budget. [The Hill, 1/15/13; Politico, 2/05/13]

The amendment failed, 162-258. [HR 152, Vote #14, 1/15/13]

Voted for Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness Funding

In 2013, Luján voted for the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act.

The bill would strengthen national preparedness and response for public health emergencies, eliminate bureaucratic inefficiencies and accelerate the stockpiling of vaccines.

The bill passed, 370-28, and was signed into law. [HR 307, Vote #56, 3/04/13]

ECONOMY

Voted to Let Obamacare Cost the Economy 2 Million Jobs

In April 2014, Luján voted against the House Republican budget, which would include a full repeal of Obamacare.

The CBO reported that Obamacare would cut an equivalent of 2 million full-time jobs from the economy in 2017. [Reuters, 2/04/14]

The NRCC criticized, "President Obama routinely says his Administration is committed to creating jobs, but in reality his unpopular and unworkable health care law will lower wages, reduce hours, destroy jobs and force millions of Americans out of the labor force." [NRCC, 2/04/14]

The bill passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Voted to Jeopardize 500,000 Jobs

In March 2013, Luján voted to jeopardize 500,000 jobs by raising the minimum wage.

Upon enactment, the measure would have increased the federal minimum wage to $10.10 over two years. The CBO reported that raising minimum wage could cost as many as 500,000 jobs.

A spokesman for Speaker John Boehner said that "mandating higher wages has real costs, including fewer people working. With unemployment Americans' top concern, our focus should be on creating- not destroying- jobs for those who need them most." [USA Today, 2/18/14]

The measure failed, 184-233. [HR 803, Vote #74, 3/15/13]

Voted for Consideration of Bill Jeopardizing 500,000 American Jobs Multiple Times

In 2014, Luján voted for consideration of the Fair Minimum Wage Act multiple times, a bill that would phase in a federal minimum wage increase to $10.10 per hour over two years. The CBO reported that raising the minimum wage could cost as many as 500,000 jobs. [USA Today, 2/18/14]

- ✓ Luján voted for consideration of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013. [Congressional Record, 2/26/14]

  The previous question passed, 224-192. [H Res 487, Vote #65, 2/26/14]

- ✓ Luján voted for consideration of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013. [Congressional Record, 2/27/14]

  The previous question passed, 225-192. [H Res 492, Vote #79, 2/27/14]

- ✓ Luján voted for consideration of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013. [Congressional Record, 4/02/14]

  The previous question passed, 229-194. [H Res 530, Vote #152, 4/02/14]

- ✓ Luján voted for consideration of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013. [Congressional Record, 4/04/14]

  The previous question passed, 222-193. [H Res 539, Vote #157, 4/04/14]

Voted Against Requiring Analyses of How Legislation Affects the Economy and Jobs

In April 2014, Luján voted against requiring the Congressional Budget Office to analyze the impact major pieces of legislation would have on job creation and the economy.

Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy said: "For too long, Washington Democrats have pursued policies without regard to the impact they will have on the economy. This has been clear from the failed stimulus bill to tax hikes to the expansion of government programs to the job-killing impact of draconian regulations." [MajorityWhip.gov, 4/04/14]

The bill passed, 224-182. [HR 1874, Vote #164, 4/04/14]

Voted for Bipartisan Bill Combating Abusive Patent Litigation Limiting Innovation and Jobs

In 2013, Luján voted for a bipartisan bill that would combat abusive patent litigation that costs billions of dollars and limits innovation and job growth.

The Innovation Act would help stop egregious patent lawsuits and penalize those abusing the patent system.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said: "The Innovation Act provides incentives for innovation so start-ups and young entrepreneurs can focus on advancements and new technology rather than costly and frivolous lawsuits. The lack of transparency in the current patent system and abusive patent litigation drain billions of dollars from our economy, stifle innovation, and limit job creation." [MajorityLeader.gov, 12/05/13; Judiciary.House.gov, 12/05/13]

The bill passed 325-91. [HR 3309, Vote #629, 12/05/13]

Voted Against Increasing Small Business's Access to Capital

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would boost the economy by reducing red tape and increasing small business's access to investment capital.

The Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act would exempt private equity fund advisers from unnecessary and costly SEC requirements, freeing up funds and resources for investment in small businesses.

Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions said: "Private equity funds have a long history of providing capital to millions of Americans so that they can operate their small businesses and create new jobs. Forcing these advisers to complete expensive and unnecessary filings does little more than divert capital, time, and effort that would normally be spent on investing in growing companies." [Rules.House.gov, 12/04/13; Speaker.gov, 12/04/13]

The bill passed 254-159. [HR 1105, Vote #622, 12/04/13]

Voted Against Modernizing Federal Workforce Development Programs

In 2013, Luján voted against modernizing federal workforce development programs.

The SKILLS Act would "eliminate arbitrary roadblocks that prevent workers from accessing job training immediately and helps ensure that support is tailored to the specific needs of individual workers."

In addition, the Act "eliminates and streamlines more than 30 separate federally funded workforce development programs and creates a single Workforce Investment Fund." [Majority Leader website, accessed 5/08/13]

The bill passed 215-202. [HR 803, Vote #75, 3/15/13]

Voted Against Holding Federal Workers to a Higher Standard

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would set up a process for firing federal workers who have "seriously delinquent tax debts" and prevented people in that situation from being hired by the government.

Republicans said the bill is needed to ensure federal workers are held to a higher standard of trust, in light of the $1 billion or so in delinquent taxes by employees covered by the bill. [The Hill, 4/15/13]

The bill would bar the hiring or continued federal employment of anyone with seriously delinquent tax debt for which a lien had been filed in public records. [CQ Votes]

The bill did not pass, failing to receive a two-thirds vote, 250-159. [HR 249, Vote #105, 4/15/13]

Voted Against Review of Costly Job-Killing Regulations

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill to require that the Environmental Protection Agency submit a report to Congress and to the Department of Energy before it could receive final approval to implement energy-related regulations that could cost more than $1 billion.

Supporters of the bill believed it would bring greater transparency to EPA regulations and reduce the overall costs of compliance with such rules, which, they believed, caused energy prices to increase. Opponents of the bill, however, argued that it would block critical regulations that protected the environment and public health, and would allow key protections, such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, to be invalidated. [Energy and Commerce Committee Report, 7/22/13]

"President Obama's EPA rules and regulations cost small businesses and families hard earned money, adding up to billions of dollars every year. Handed down by unelected bureaucrats that are unaccountable to the American people, these rules continue to dig deeper into people's pockets and stifle job creation. House Republicans remain committed to preventing more expensive red tape and standing up for consumers and American families. Under the Energy Consumers Relief Act, the EPA will be required to submit to Congress economic impact information on proposed billion-dollar rules that will drive up energy prices and hurt jobs. Additionally, the Secretary of Energy is required to conduct a review to determine whether there would be any significant adverse effects to the economy. Families and small businesses across this country have to review the costs and benefits of their decisions every day, it is not too much to ask for our government to do the same." [Eric Cantor press release, 8/01/13]

The bill passed 232-181. [HR 1582, Vote # 432, 8/01/13]

Opposed Congressional Approval of Excessive Executive Agency Regulations

In August 2013, Luján voted against the REINS Act, that would require Congress to approve executive agency regulatory proposals that are deemed to be "major rules."

As amended, the bill would include in the definition of "major rules" those likely to cost more than $50 million; rules that would have adverse economic effects; any regulations crafted to implement or provide for the collection of a carbon tax; and rules made under the 2010 health care overhaul law.

It also would require that federal agencies list, in reports submitted to Congress, any related regulatory actions or pending actions by another federal agency with authority to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective. [CQ Floor Votes, 8/02/13]

The bill was part of a series before leaving “Washington for a five-week summer break… aimed mostly at embarrassing the Obama administration and scoring political points.” [Washington Post, 7/31/13]

According to the Office of Budget and Management the bill would reflect an unprecedented and unjustified power shift in Washington. In a policy statement, OMB wrote, “This radical departure from the longstanding separation of powers between the Executive and Legislative branches would delay and, in many cases, thwart implementation of statutory mandates and execution of duly-enacted laws.” [The Hill, 7/31/13]

The White House threatened to veto the measure, noting that federal agencies were already required to adhere to federal law and that Congress had the ability to review them. The White House wrote that the REINS Act would “throw all major regulations into a months-long limbo, fostering uncertainty and impeding business investment that is vital to economic growth.” [CQ News, 8/02/13]

The bill passed 232-183. [HR 367, Vote #445, 8/02/13]

EDUCATION

Voted Against Critical Funding for Head Start During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for Head Start at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

In a blast release to 21 districts, the NRCC said that House Democrats turned their backs "on the million –plus low income women and children who are enrolled in Head Start Programs around the country." [NRCC, 10/08/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "Using America's students as political pawns to make Democrats' government shutdown as painful as possible would be a new low – even by Washington standards." [Speaker.gov, 10/08/13]

The bill passed 248-168. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/08/13; HJ Res 84, Vote #530, 10/08/13]

Voted Against Stopping Student Interest Rates From Doubling

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would provide a long-term, market-based solution to student interest rates on Stafford and PLUS loans.

"Our proposal offers predictability, simplicity and the flexibility to take advantage of low interest rates whenever possible. In fact, should this legislation be enacted this summer, most student-loan borrowers will see their interest rates drop as much as 2 percentage points. It's a win for students, and a win for taxpayers," wrote Representatives John Kline and Virginia Foxx. [Washington Times, Kline and Foxx opinion, 5/23/13]

Democrats owe "an explanation to the many hard-working students… whose rates are at risk because of his own intransigence. It's time to put aside his allegiance to Nancy Pelosi and her liberal agenda and start supporting common-sense legislation like this," said the NRCC's press release attacking Democrats in targeted races. [Roll Call, 5/24/13]

The bill passed, 221-198. [HR 1911, Vote #183, 5/23/13]

ALTERNATIVE: Wanted to Put Politicians in Charge of Setting Interest Rates

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would provide a long-term, market-based solution to student interest rates on Stafford and PLUS loans.

"We're in this predicament because politicians put themselves in charge of setting interest rates, guaranteeing uncertainty for students and more infighting in Congress. Students deserve a long-term solution that gets

Washington out of the business of setting student-loan interest rates," wrote Representatives John Kline and Virginia Foxx. [Washington Times, Kline and Foxx opinion, 5/23/13]

The bill passed, 221-198. [HR 1911, Vote #183, 5/23/13]

The House Bill "Echoes A Plan Obama Offered In April"

"[T]he Republican bill echoes a plan Obama offered in April to tie interest rates to the yield on the 10-year Treasury bill, rather than setting them via an act of Congress. [Washington Post, 5/23/13]

Voted Against Education Bill That Would Return Power to the States

In July 2013, Luján voted against an education bill that would return power to the states and allow them to set their own academic standards, decide whether schools are meeting them, and determine what to do about underperforming schools.

"The bill would delete a provision known as "maintenance of effort," which currently ensures that states use federal dollars in addition to, and not as a replacement for, state and local dollars to help low-income, minority, disabled students and English learners. […] The bill eliminates the current accountability system, called adequate yearly progress, which requires all students to be proficient in reading and math by 2014." [Washington Post, 7/19/13]

The Republican bill would update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, created by Congress in 1965 to distribute federal dollars primarily to help children who are poor, disabled or English language learners. Those dollars represent about 10 percent of funding for public schools; local communities and states provide the rest.

"We have sought to recalibrate the federal role, undoing the excesses of the past," said Kline, whose bill is supported by the National School Boards Association.

"This bill makes certain the secretary of education does not have the power to force, in a a dictatorial way, the Common Core," said Rep. Aaron Schock (R- Ill.). [Washington Post, 7/18/13]

"House Republicans know that state and local governments make better decisions for their students, parents, teachers, and administrators than Washington does. That is why we passed the Student Success Act, legislation that reduces the federal government's footprint in our nation's classrooms and empowers local communities to lead the way in fixing America's education system. This responsible legislation eliminates more than 70 wasteful and duplicative federal programs imposed on K-12 classrooms, restores local control, and rewards successful teachers who play a vital role in putting North Texas students on the path towards a brighter future," Rep. Pete Sessions said in a statement. [Pete Sessions press release, 7/19/13]

The bill passed 221-207. [HR 5, Vote #374, 7/19/13]

Opposed Student Loan Compromise, Lowering Rates

On July 31, 2013, Luján voted against a bill that that would tie student loan interest rates to market rates, reversing a rate hike that took effect for some new loans on July 1.

The bill set rates at 3.86 percent for undergraduate Stafford loans, 5.4 percent for graduate Stafford loans and 6.4 percent for PLUS loans. Rates were capped at 8.25 percent for undergraduate loans, 9.5 percent for graduate loans and 10.25 percent for PLUS loans. [Politico, 7/31/13]

The bill passed 392-31. [HR 1911, Vote #426, 7/31/13]

ENERGY

Voted Against Lowering Energy Costs for Americans

In 2014, Luján voted against lowering energy costs for Americans by streamlining the permitting process for Americans and curbing red tape on coal-fired power producers.

Speaker John Boehner said, "When low and middle income Americans have to cut back on groceries just to pay their heating bills, President Obama and Democrats in Washington have no excuse for standing in the way of more American energy." [Speaker.gov, 3/06/14]

The bill passed, 229-179. [HR 2641, Vote #113, 3/06/14]

Supported Agencies Considering the "Social Cost" of Carbon in Reviews

In 2014, Luján voted against prohibiting federal agencies from considering the "social cost" of carbon, such as the damage on human health or agricultural productivity, when conducting environmental reviews. [CQ Floor Votes, 3/06/14]

The amendment passed, 222-188. [HR 2641, Vote #109, 3/06/14]

Voted Against Protecting American Energy Jobs by Stopping the War on Coal

In 2014, Luján voted against protecting coal mining from excessive and unnecessary federal regulation. [MajorityLeader.gov, accessed 5/02/14]

Speaker John Boehner said, "This bill sends a message to the Obama administration that the American people won't tolerate this war on coal, much less fund it." [Speaker.gov, 3/25/14]

The bill passed, 229-192. [HR 2824, Vote #141, 3/25/14]

Opposed Lowering Energy Costs for American Families

In November 2013, Luján voted against the Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the bill would lower energy costs, eliminate unnecessary leasing delays for onshore oil and natural gas projects on federal lands, and ensure funds are available for efficient wind and solar permitting.

Cantor said, "As hard working families across America struggle with higher energy costs, the last thing the federal government should be doing is creating more red-

tape and regulations that make heating the home or fueling up the car even more expensive." [MajorityLeader.gov, 11/20/13]

The bill passed 228-192. [HR 1965, Vote #600, 11/20/13]

Opposed Cutting Red Tape in Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Process

In November 2013, Luján voted against the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, a bill that "modernizes the natural gas pipeline permitting review process by establishing firm timelines for the review of such applications."

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "With the passage of the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Act, the House has passed three bipartisan bills this week to cut red-tape, develop domestic energy resources, and reduce energy costs for American families. Hardworking middle class Americans shouldn't have to choose between heating their homes or putting groceries on the table because energy prices are too high." [MajorityLeader.gov, 11/21/13]

The bill passed 252-165. [HR 1900, Vote #611, 11/21/13]

Supported Obama's Costly Overreach on Energy Production

In November 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan bill that would prevent the Obama administration from imposing costly, duplicative regulations on certain types of energy production.

Speaker John Boehner said that the Protecting States' Rights to Promote Energy Security Act would help stop President Obama's "bureaucratic overreach."

Boehner criticized that the administration had "signaled plans to impose costly duplicative regulations on hydraulic fracturing in states that have safely and effectively regulated this type of energy production for years." [Speaker.gov, 11/20/13]

The bill passed 235-187. [HR 2728, Vote #604, 11/20/13]

Voted Against Spurring Job Creation Through Streamlining Permitting Process for Mining Strategic Minerals

In September 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would speed up reviews of mineral exploration and mining permits. The bill would reclassify domestic mining of rare earth and other critical and strategic minerals on federal lands as "infrastructure projects" under a March 2012 executive order designed to streamline the permitting and review process.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the bill "streamlines the permitting process and allows the United States to more efficiently and responsibly develop these resources," and that the bill would help "spur job creation, and increase economic competitiveness." [MajorityLeader.gov, 9/18/13]

The bill passed 246-178. [HR 761, Vote #471, 9/18/13]

Voted Against Authorization of Keystone Pipeline Project that Would Create 20,000 Jobs

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill to allow construction of the northern portion of the Keystone XL oilsands pipeline. The bill says no presidential permit is needed to begin construction of the northern route, as the White House has delayed full approval of the project.

Pipeline builder TransCanada estimated that 20,000 jobs would be built from the pipeline's construction. [EnergyCommerce.House.gov, accessed 12/18/13]

According to the NRCC, the project "would not only create jobs but also move our country towards an All-American energy economy.

"What our country needs is energy independence and a more robust job market, not irresponsible representation from Nancy Pelosi's lap dogs," NRCC Communications Director Andrea Bozek said of the Democrats who voted against the bill. [NRCC press release, 5/22/13]

The bill passed, 241-175. [HR 3, Vote #179, 5/22/13]

Voted for Job-Killing Carbon Tax and Tax on Retired Mine Workers

In 2013, Luján voted for a budget proposal from the House Progressive Caucus that would create a $20 per ton carbon tax. The bill would also create a financial transactions tax impacting miner's pension funds.

The NRCC stated that the budget would "devastate" the coal industry and that House Democrats had "declared war on coal." [NRCC.org, 3/21/13]

The NRCC later state that the budget would "gut the pensions" of "retired coal miners who depend on those pensions to put food on their tables and to pay for the health care that they need and deserve." [NRCC.org, 12/09/13]

The bill failed, 84-327. [H Con Res 25, Vote #85, 3/20/13]

ENVIRONMENT / PUBLIC LANDS

Voted Against Second Amendment Rights, Hunting and Fishing on Public Lands

In February 2014, Luján voted against the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, a bill that would remove bureaucratic roadblocks to hunting, fishing and shooting and guard against new regulations aimed at limiting public access.

The bill would also limit the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the right to bear arms on public lands.

"Today, a bipartisan majority of the House affirmed that fishing, hunting, and shooting are important, traditional activities that should continue on America's public lands," said Speaker John Boehner. "The bill enjoys the broad support of 36 hunting, shooting and habitat conservation groups who promote responsibility, sportsmanship, and respect for nature." [Speaker.gov, 2/05/14]

The bill passed 268-154. [HR 3590, Vote #41, 2/05/14]

Voted Against Addressing Emergency Drought Conditions in California While Saving Taxpayer Money

In February 2014, Luján voted against a bill that would address emergency drought conditions in California by restoring some water deliveries, ensuring a reliable water supply, and saving taxpayer money by ending unnecessary government projects.

"Last Congress the House passed legislation to address the devastating impact of severe drought conditions on the agriculture areas of central California. Unfortunately, the concerns of hard-working families and farmers were completely ignored by the Democratic-controlled Senate," said Speaker John Boehner. "The Central Valley supplies America with an abundance of fruit and vegetable crops, but it is now turning into a man-made dust bowl." [Speaker.gov, 2/05/14]

The bill passed 229-191. [HR 3964, Vote #50, 2/05/14]

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

Voted to Allow IRS Targeting of Americans for Their Political Beliefs

In February 2014, Luján voted against the Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014.

The NRCC charged that Democratic members voted against prohibiting the Obama administration from changing the IRS rules used to grant tax-exempt status to organizations to fit their political agenda.

In a press release sent to 31 districts, the NRCC criticized, "Why does Nolan believe an official government agency should target American citizens solely based on their political beliefs? Instead of stepping in and preventing federal government overreach, Nolan is enabling this inappropriate targeting to continue." [NRCC, 2/26/14]

The bill passed, 243-176. [HR 3865, Vote #69, 2/26/14]

Voted for Protecting Private Property from Unjust Government Seizure

In February 2014, Luján voted for protecting private property from eminent domain abuses.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor wrote: "No American's home should be taken from him or her by a government entity who abuses its constitutional authority, deciding that another private entity can make better use of that property. The House will continue to fight eminent domain abuses so that the American people can rest assured that their private property rights are protected." [MajorityLeader.gov, 2/26/14]

The bill passed, 353-65. [HR 1944, Vote #67, 2/26/14]

Voted Against Requiring the Administration to Account for Costs of Unfunded Mandates

In 2014, Luján voted against forcing President Obama's Administration to account for the costs of its unfunded mandates.

Speaker John Boehner said, "The Obama administration has handed down reams of arbitrary new rules without regard for their consequences, but those who have to pay for them – states, local governments, and private businesses – don't have that luxury." [Speaker.gov, 2/28/14]

The bill passed, 234-176. [HR 899, Vote #90, 2/28/14]

Voted Against Requiring the Administration to Report to Congress when They Stop Enforcing a Law

In 2014, Luján voted against requiring federal officials report to Congress when they stop enforcing a law.

Congressman Ron DeSantis said that the bill would serve "to hinder the president from usurping the authority of Congress." [Speaker.gov, 3/10/14]

The bill passed, 244-171. [HR 3973, Vote #129, 3/13/14]

Voted Against Providing Congress With Tool to Stop Executive Overreach

In 2014, Luján voted against allowing the House or Senate to authorize a lawsuit on the behalf of the American people against the executive branch for failing to faithfully execute the laws. [Speaker.gov, 3/10/14]

Majority Leader said that the Administration's failure to execute the law "not only weakens the credibility of our political institutions, they also threaten our chances of returning to a time of robust job growth by creating uncertainty in the economy." [MajorityLeader.gov, 3/12/14]

The bill passed, 233-181. [HR 4138, Vote #124, 3/12/14]

Voted Against Protecting Small Business and Individuals from Government Rules

In 2014, Luján voted against a bill that would require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to analyze the impact of proposed rules on individuals' and small businesses' access to credit.

The amendment passed, 250-167. [HR 3193, Vote #81, 2/27/14]

Voted to Aid Benghazi Cover-Up

In 2014, Luján voted against creating a Select House Committee to investigate the attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

In a release sent to 33 districts, the NRCC charged: "With today's vote, Joe Garcia is merely abetting the cover-up. It's beyond shameful that he refuses to search for answers to ensure this never happens again. He is willing to let American lives stay at risk to protect his standing with President Obama and national Democrats." [NRCC, 5/08/14]

The bill passed, 232-186. [H Res 567, Vote #209, 5/08/14]

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Voted for Budget Deal with No Meaningful Spending Cuts or Protections from Obamacare

In October 2013, Luján voted for a budget deal to avert default and reopen the government.

According to the New York Times, "Under the agreement, the government would be funded through Jan. 15, and the debt ceiling would be raised until Feb. 7. The Senate will take up a separate motion to instruct House and Senate negotiators to reach accord by Dec. 13 on a long-term blueprint for tax and spending policies over the next decade." [New York Times, 10/16/13]

The bill passed 285-144. [HR 2775, Vote #550, 10/16/13]

> **Club for Growth: With Budget Deal, "Congress Will Kick the Can Down the Road, Yet Again"**
>
> In October 2013, Club for Growth criticized: "There are no significant changes to ObamaCare, nothing on the other major entitlements that are racked with trillions in funded liabilities, and no meaningful spending cuts either. If this bill passes, Congress will kick the can down the road, yet again." [Club for Growth, 10/16/13]
>
> **Heritage Action: Deal Does "Absolutely Nothing to Help Americans who are Negatively Impacted by Obamacare"**
>
> In October 2013, Heritage Action criticized: "Despite overruling OPM's congressional exemption, the proposed plan will do absolutely nothing to help Americans who are negatively impacted by Obamacare. Premiums will continue to skyrocket, cancellation notices will still arrive in the mail, employers will continue reducing hours and bureaucrats will continue reaching deeper and deeper into our health care decisions." [Heritage Action, 10/15/13]

Voted for Putting Federal Workers' Pay Ahead of Funding Cancer Screenings

In 2013, Luján voted for a bill that would ensure that federal workers receive retroactive pay for the period during the government shutdown.

Despite the bill being unanimously supported, the NRCC criticized Democrats in 13 districts: "It shows you how warped Elizabeth Esty's priorities are that, after voting against bills to fund vital programs including cancer screenings, she's decided to vote for a bill that would pay federal workers." [NRCC, 10/05/13]

The bill passed 407-0. [HR 3223, Vote #525, 10/05/13]

Voted for Providing Pay to Military in Event of a Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted to provide pay and allowances to military personnel, including active military reservists, certain Defense and Homeland Security Department civilian employees, during a government shutdown. Funds would be made available until January 15, 2015 or the enactment of a law providing regular appropriations.

The bill passed 423-0. [HR 3210, Vote #499, 9/29/13]

Voted Against Plan to Avert Government Shutdown in Order to Protect Special Obamacare Subsidies

In 2013, days before the government would shut down, Luján voted against a bipartisan continuing resolution that would fund the government through December 15 while delaying Obamacare's individual mandate for a year and requiring members of Congress and their staffs to buy healthcare plans on the Obamacare exchange without special subsidies from the government. [NPR, 10/16/13]

In a radio advertisement in 10 separate districts, the NRCC stated: "Ann Kirkpatrick is so out-of-touch with Arizona families she voted to shut down the government in order to protect her taxpayer-funded benefits…While Arizona families are struggling to afford quality healthcare, Kirkpatrick is making sure taxpayers are funding her Cadillac coverage." [NRCC, 10/02/13]

The NRCC previously attacked: "It's time for Harry Reid and Senate Democrats to stop their intransigence and support this common-sense plan. Americans shouldn't suffer under ObamaCare while big business and Congress get sweetheart deals." [NRCC, 9/30/13]

The resolution passed 228-201. [HJ Res 59, Vote #504, 9/30/13]

Speaker Boehner: Democrats Shut Down the Government To Protect Special Breaks for Congress

In October 2013, Speaker John Boehner said, "Senate Democrats and the president shut down the government to protect special breaks for Congress and big businesses under ObamaCare, and won't negotiate to open the government back up. So the House has passed several individual measures to make sure critical services – veterans benefits, cancer research, and now food safety – are still up and running." [Speaker.gov, 10/07/13]

Voted Against Bipartisan Plan to Prevent Government Shutdown While Delaying Obamacare

In 2013, days before the government would shut down, Luján voted against a bipartisan continuing resolution that would fund the government through December 15 while delaying Obamacare for one year and allowing companies and insurance providers to opt out of mandated birth control coverage for religious or moral reasons. [CQ Floor Votes, 9/29/13]

Rules Chairman Pete Sessions said, "The President has already admitted that his health care law is unworkable for businesses. Now it is time for his Administration to acknowledge that it won't work for individuals and families either." [Pete Sessions press release, 9/29/13]

The resolution passed 231-192. [HJ Res 59, Vote #498, 9/29/13]

Voted Against Bipartisan Plan to Prevent Government Shutdown and Repeal the Job-Killing Medical Device Tax

In 2013, days before the government would shut down, Luján voted against a bipartisan continuing resolution that would fund the government through December 15 and repeal the 2.3 percent medical device tax.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the medical device tax would generate $29 billion in revenue over 10 years. The Washington Post reported that the medical-device makers said the tax was killing jobs and shipping them overseas.

"One study from the trade group AdvaMed concluded that the medical-device tax would ship 43,000 jobs overseas in an industry that employs an estimated 400,000 workers," the paper reported. [Washington Post, 9/28/13, 9/29/13]

The resolution passed 248-174. [HJ Res 59, Vote #497, 9/29/13]

Voted Against Preventing Government Shutdown and Protecting Middle Class from Obamacare

In September 2013, Luján voted against a continuing resolution that would protect Americans from the harmful effects of Obamacare while not increasing spending.

The New York Times reported: "The House's stopgap spending measure would finance the government through Dec. 15 at the current spending levels, which reflect the automatic spending cuts that took effect in March, known as sequestration, while blocking the health care law, under which the uninsured will be enrolled beginning on Oct. 1." [New York Times, 9/18/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "Americans are tired of seeing the their government continue to spend more and more of their hard earned tax dollars, and for the first time since the Korean War, it will be possible to have two consecutive years of discretionary spending cuts. This resolution will also protect the working middle class from the devastating effects of ObamaCare." [MajorityLeader.gov, 9/20/13]

The bill passed 230-189. [HJ Res 59, Vote #478, 9/20/13]

Voted Against Funding for Veterans During Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to fund critical Department of Veterans Affairs programs not previously deemed essential.

The NRCC attacked that Democrats voted "against funding for our nation's veterans" in a "shocking display of arrogance." [NRCC, 10/02/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "Today the president reiterated his threat to veto a simple, common-sense measure to stand with our nation's veterans and ensure that veterans' programs are funded during the shutdown [...] With the backlog of disability claims continuing to pile up and veterans having to wait longer and longer to receive their benefits, it is unconscionable that Democrats voted against the *Honoring our Promise to America's Veterans Act* (H.J. Res. 72) yesterday to ensure that the Department of Veterans' Affairs had the resources necessary to address this claims backlog." [Speaker.gov, 10/02/13]

The motion failed to reach a two-thirds majority, 264-164. [HJ Res 72, Vote #506, 10/01/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for D.C. During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to authorize the District of Columbia to expend local funds without Congressional approval as proposed in its most recent budget submitted to Congress.

Speaker John Boehner said, "Republicans continue to listen to the American people and take steps to keep critical parts of the government running." [Speaker.gov, 10/02/13]

The motion failed to reach a two-thirds majority, 265-163. [HJ Res 71, Vote #507, 10/01/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for National Parks and Museums During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the National Parks Service, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum at post-sequester fiscal 2013 levels.

The motion failed to reach a two-thirds majority, 252-176. [HJ Res 70, Vote #508, 10/01/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for National Parks and Museums During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the National Parks Service, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum at post-sequester fiscal 2013 funding levels.

Speaker John Boehner said, "Republicans continue to listen to the American people and take steps to keep critical parts of the government running. There's nothing 'piecemeal' about making sure Americans have access to all of their national parks…" [Speaker.gov, 10/02/13]

The bill passed 252-173. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/02/13; HJ Res 70, Vote #513, 10/02/13]

Voted Against Funding for Cancer Patients During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide critical and life-saving funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The NRCC attacked in a blast press release, "Ann Kirkpatrick's inexplicable decision to put Obama's government shutdown ahead of cancer treatment for kids shows how wildly out of touch she is with everyone else in America." [NRCC, 10/02/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "While we work out our differences here in Washington, children should not be denied their treatments." [MajorityLeader.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 254-171. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/02/13; HJ Res 73, Vote #514, 10/02/13]

Voted Against Funding National Guard and Reserve During Government Shutdown

In 2013, voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the National Guard and military reservists during the government shutdown.

The NRCC stated that House Democrats "should be ashamed" for "abandoning" the National Guard and military reservists. [NRCC, 10/03/13]

Speaker John Boehner said: "Earlier this week, the House and Senate unanimously voted to ensure our military is paid no matter what, and the president signed that measure into law. We should have no trouble coming together and extending the same relief to our National Guard and Reserves. These men and women make incredible sacrifices for our country, and they and their families deserve this certainty and fairness." [Speaker.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 265-160. [HR 3230, Vote #516, 10/03/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding For Veterans Benefits During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan to provide funding for veterans programs, including disability payments, education benefits and home loans. The bill would also fund the Veterans Benefits Administration at an annualized rate of $2.5 billion to process disability claims. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/03/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "With the backlog of disability claims continuing to pile up and veterans being forced to wait longer and longer to receive their benefits, it is critical that the White House and Congress work together to support our veterans. President Clinton and Congress agreed to support veterans programs during the last government shutdown, and we should do the same today." [Speaker.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 259-157. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/03/13; HJ Res 72, Vote #518, 10/03/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for FEMA During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

The bill passed 247-164. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/04/13; HJ Res 522, Vote #522, 10/04/13]

Voted Against Funding for Women and Children Living in Poverty During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children at post-sequester FY2013 levels.

The NRCC criticized that House Democrats put "Obama's government shutdown ahead of nutrition assistance for low-income families." [NRCC, 10/04/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "These should be areas we can all agree on, but the president has threatened to veto these measures on top of refusing to sit down and talk altogether." [Speaker.gov, 10/04/13]

The bill passed 244-164. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/04/13; HJ Res 75, Vote #524, 10/04/13]

Voted Against Funding for Food Safety During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the Food and Drug Administration at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

In a blast release to 23 districts, the NRCC attacked: “It’s one thing for Bishop to continue to support President Obama’s government shutdown, but to put food safety at risk by voting against this common-sense measure shows just how out-of-touch his priorities are.” [NRCC, 10/07/13]

The bill passed 235-162. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/07/13; HJ Res 77, Vote #528, 10/07/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for Head Start During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for Head Start at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

In a blast release to 21 districts, the NRCC said that House Democrats turned their backs “on the million –plus low income women and children who are enrolled in Head Start Programs around the country.” [NRCC, 10/08/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, “Using America’s students as political pawns to make Democrats’ government shutdown as painful as possible would be a new low – even by Washington standards.” [Speaker.gov, 10/08/13]

The bill passed 248-168. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/08/13; HJ Res 84, Vote #530, 10/08/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for the FAA During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the Federal Aviation Administration at post-sequester FY 2013 funding levels.

The NRCC criticized House Democrats for voting against funding aviation inspections and air safety in “another blatant political maneuver that puts the public at risk.” [NRCC, 10/09/13]

The bill passed 252-172. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/09/13; HJ Res 90, Vote #537, 10/09/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for Homeland Security Border Activities During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for select Department of Homeland Security activities at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

Activities funded included border and customs protection, immigration and citizenship services, the Coast Guard, and biometric data used to track individuals who may be terrorists, criminals or undocumented immigrants.

The bill passed 249-175. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/10/13; HJ Res 79, Vote #540, 10/10/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for National Nuclear Security During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for nuclear weapons and non-proliferation programs under the National Nuclear Security Administration at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

Speaker John Boehner said, “Ensuring the safety of our nuclear weapons arsenal and preventing the spread of nuclear technology to hostile regimes and terrorists are critical to America’s security. Senate Democrats shouldn’t let a disagreement over whether Americans should be treated fairly under ObamaCare jeopardize our national security.” [Speaker.gov, 10/11/13]

The bill passed 247-176. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/11/13; HJ Res 76, Vote #542, 10/11/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for Native American Programs During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Service at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

The bill passed 233-160. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/14/13; HJ Res 80, Vote #548, 10/14/13]

HEALTH CARE

Voted to Protect Millions of Americans from Obamacare Fraud

In January 2014, Luján voted for a bipartisan bill that would keep Americans' private health information secure.

The Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act "would require HHS to notify Americans if their secure information on the ObamaCare exchanges has been compromised."

The NRCC said that bill "helps protect the personal information of Americans" and "would protect millions of Americans from ObamaCare fraud." [NRCC.org, 1/10/14]

The bill passed 259-154. [HR 3811, Vote #11, 1/10/14]

Voted Against Disclosing Obamacare Enrollment Failures

In January 2014, Luján voted against the Exchange Information Disclosure Act, a bill that would require the Department of Health and Human Services to immediately provide accurate enrollment numbers for Obamacare.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "ObamaCare has not lived up to its promises. The Administration refuses to release full and transparent ObamaCare enrollment data in order to protect its failures." [MajorityLeader.gov, 1/16/14]

"The administration hasn't provided a clear picture of where enrollment stands, what challenges remain with the function and security of its website, and how much addressing those issues will cost taxpayers," Speaker John Boehner said. [Speaker.gov, 1/16/14]

The bill passed 259-154. [HR 3362, Vote #23, 1/16/14]

Voted Against Permanent Solution to Medicare Payments While Ensuring All Americans are Treated Fairly Under Obamacare

In 2014, Luján voted against providing a permanent solution to the Medicare physician payment formula while delaying Obamacare's individual mandate tax.

Speaker John Boehner said, "The bill passed by the House today provides long-term certainty for Medicare providers and, in turn, helps protect seniors' access to quality, affordable care. It also includes a delay in the health law's individual mandate tax, extending the same basic fairness to all Americans that the president has granted to big businesses." [Speaker.gov, 3/14/14]

The bill passed, 238-181. [HR 4015, Vote #135, 3/14/14]

Supported Prioritizing Pediatric Cancer Research over Political Convention Spending

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would divert $126 from a fund set aside for national political conventions towards expanding pediatric cancer research at the National Institutes of Health. [Washington Post, 12/12/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "The bottom line is this bill is a choice between allocating monies for political conventions or for pediatric medical research- that's the choice." [MajorityLeader.gov, 12/11/13]

The bill passed 295-103. [HR 2019, Vote #632, 12/11/13]

Voted Against Funding for Cancer Patients During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide critical and life-saving funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The NRCC attacked in a blast press release, "Ann Kirkpatrick's inexplicable decision to put Obama's government shutdown ahead of cancer treatment for kids shows how wildly out of touch she is with everyone else in America." [NRCC, 10/02/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "While we work out our differences here in Washington, children should not be denied their treatments." [MajorityLeader.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 254-171. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/02/13; HJ Res 73, Vote #514, 10/02/13]

Opposed Bipartisan Plan to Allow Americans to Keep Their Health Insurance Plans

In November 2013, Luján voted against the "Keep Your Health Plan Act," a bipartisan plan to allow insurers to continue to offer plans that had previously been cancelled under Obamacare.

The New York Times reported: "Defying a veto threat from President Obama, the House on Friday approved legislation that would allow health insurance companies to renew individual insurance policies and sell similar policies to new customers next year even if the coverage does not provide all the benefits and consumer protections required by the new health care law." [New York Times, 11/15/13]

Speaker John Boehner said: "The president broke his word, had a chance to fix the problem, and only did more damage to his credibility. Today, the House made a big, bipartisan statement about the need to make things right. The Keep Your Health Plan Act represents an important step toward providing relief to those who have lost their plans and face much higher premiums." [Speaker.gov, 11/15/13]

The bill passed 261-157. [HR 3350, Vote #587, 11/15/13]

Voted Against Delaying Onerous Business Reporting under Obamacare

In July 2013, Luján voted against delaying for one year, until the beginning of 2015, the requirement in the Affordable Care Act that businesses with 50 or more full-time employees provide health insurance to their workers or pay a penalty. It would also delay associated reporting requirements for employers and insurance providers for one year. [CQ Floor Votes]

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill "essentially codifies recent announcements by the Administration that these provisions will become effective in 2015 instead of 2014 as originally envisioned." [CBO, 7/16/13]

"Mr. Obama created the conundrum for his party earlier this month when he announced that he would delay the employer mandate, which requires businesses with 50 or more workers to offer health care coverage or else pay fines. The administration said it was trying to give businesses more time to comply." [Washington Times, 7/17/13]

The measure passed 264-161. [H Res 2667, Vote #361, 7/17/13]

... And Voted Against Giving Same Break to Individuals

In 2013, Luján voted against delaying until 2015 the Affordable Care Act requirement that individuals maintain minimal essential health care coverage.

According to CQ Weekly, delaying "central provisions" like the individual insurance mandate would "essentially amount to a temporary repeal" of the health care reform law.

The bill passed 251-174. [CQ Weekly, 7/22/13; HR 2668, Vote #363, 7/17/13]

Voted to Keep ObamaCare

In 2013, Luján voted against the House Republican budget that repealed ObamaCare. [H Con Res 25, Vote #88, 3/21/13]

According to Politico, "House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's budget assumes that the health law is repealed and defunded." [Politico, 3/13/13]

The NRCC attacked Democrats for voting "to keep ObamaCare's devastating Medicare cuts in place." [zpolitics.com, 4/10/13]

Voted Against Repealing "Train Wreck" of ObamaCare

In 2013, Luján voted against repealing the "train wreck" Affordable Care Act.

According to the NRCC, this “train wreck” is hurting women, seniors and workers across the country. That’s why a recent poll found that just 35 percent of Americans have a “favorable” view of the law.

Amidst revelations of the IRS unfairly targeting conservative groups, ABC News reported that the IRS official who ran the tax-exempt organizations office is now the director for the IRS’s ObamaCare office.

“How’s the fact that an individual who is at the heart of a major scandal is now standing ready to control your healthcare?” the NRCC asked. [NRCC release, 5/17/13]

The measure passed, 229-195. [HR 45, Vote #154, 5/16/13]

Voted to Keep One of the Largest Tax Increases

In 2013, Luján voted against repealing the Affordable Care Act, which “imposes one of the largest tax increases in our nation’s history.”

“Contrary to what the Administration sold to the American people, the healthcare law drives up costs and discourages hiring at a time when millions are looking for work. It also dramatically cuts senior care and puts Washington bureaucrats between patients and their doctors,” Representative Pete Sessions said. [Rep. Pete Sessions press release, 5/16/13]

The measure passed, 229-195. [HR 45, Vote #154, 5/16/13]

NRCC Background on ObamaCare:

Just 35 Percent Of Americans Have A Favorable View Of ObamaCare—One Of The Lowest Numbers Since The Law Was Passed. “Overall, public opinion of the healthcare law remains divided and leans slightly negative. In the latest tracking poll, 40 percent said they have an unfavorable view of the law, compared with 35 percent who have a favorable view — roughly in line with past results.” (Sam Baker, “Poll: 40 Percent Don’t Know Obamacare Is Still Law,” The Hill, 4/30/13)

Under Obamacare, Health Insurance Premiums For Families Are Now About $3,000 Higher, Instead Of $2,500 Lower As President Obama Promised. “Although President Obama repeatedly claimed that health-insurance premiums for a family would be $2,500 lower by the end of his first term, they are actually about $3,000 higher—a spread of about $5,500 per family.” (Merrill Matthews and Mark E. Litow, “ObamaCare’s Health-Insurance Sticker Shock,” The Wall Street Journal, 1/13/2013)

Montana Senator Max Baucus Called Obamacare "A Huge Train Wreck." "A Democratic senator who helped craft President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law gave the administration "a failing grade" on Wednesday for its efforts to educate the public and small employers about sweeping changes due to take effect in eight months. 'I just see a huge train wreck,' Senator Max Baucus of Montana told Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee, an oversight panel that he chairs." (David Morgan, "Democratic Senator Says Government Has Failed On Healthcare Outreach,'" Reuters, 4/17/13)

A **2012 Poll Showed That 74 Percent Of Doctors Say They Will Leave Medicare Or Stop Accepting Medicare Patients Due To ObamaCare.** "No wonder a recent Doctor Patient Medical Association poll found that 74% of doctors say they will stop accepting Medicare patients or will leave Medicare entirely because of Obamacare." (Marc Seigel, "How Obamacare Hurts Seniors," The Daily News, 8/12/12)

Voted to Keep Scandal-Ridden IRS in Charge of Obamacare

In 2013, Luján voted against the "Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act," to prohibit the Treasury secretary, or any delegate including the IRS, from implementing or enforcing provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

The bill was introduced after claims that the IRS targeted conservative organizations. [Tom Price Press Release, 5/17/13]

The bill passed 232-185. [H.R. 2009, Vote #447, 8/02/13]

IRS to Play "Dominant Role" in Enforcing Obamacare

NRCC spokesman Katie Prill said, "It has been noted by several news organizations that the IRS will play a 'dominant role' in enforcing Obamacare" and referred to a May article from the McClatchy Washington Bureau. It called the IRS an "important cog" and said the tax agency "must act on 47 provisions of the new law, more than half of those already in effect, including the more controversial ones taking effect in 2014 such as the requirement that nearly all non-elderly adults have health care coverage."

The following is the script of an ad the NRCC ran after the vote against several Democratic members:

"The most dreaded return address in America. The IRS. And just days ago, [Democratic member] voted to keep the scandal-ridden IRS in charge of enforcing Obamacare. Just what you need. To owe more to the IRS. Under Obamacare, your insurance premiums could double and your personal data could be at risk. Call Patrick Murphy. Ask him to get the IRS out of your health care." [Politifact, 8/28/13]

NOTE: Politifact rated the statement in this ad "Mostly False."

Would Not Require Verification for Subsidies Under Obamacare to Fight Fraud and Abuse

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would bar individuals from receiving federal subsidies toward their purchase of health coverage through insurance exchanges until the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that a system to verify household income and coverage requirements was in place. [CQ Weekly, 9/16/13]

"In an effort to hold the Administration accountable and prevent rampant fraud and abuse, House Republicans approved legislation today to require verification for individuals who claim to be eligible for subsidies. I'm pleased that the House moved forward on this responsible bill to protect the American people from another reckless piece of the health care law." [Pete Sessions press release, 9/12/13]

The bill passed 235-191. [HR 2775, Vote #458, 9/12/13]

HOMELAND SECURITY

Voted to Allow Funds to Be Used to House Guantanamo Bay Prisoners in the United States

In 2014, Luján voted for allowing funds in the military construction appropriations bill to be used to construct facilities in the United States to house prisoners from Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

The amendment would have struck a provision in the underlying bill that would bar the use of any funds in the bill to house any prisoner from Guantanamo Bay at a facility in the United States. [CQ Floor Votes, 4/30/14]

The amendment failed, 168-249. [HR 4486, Vote #185, 4/30/14]

Voted Against Critical Funding for Homeland Security Border Activities During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for select Department of Homeland Security activities at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

Activities funded included border and customs protection, immigration and citizenship services, the Coast Guard, and biometric data used to track individuals who may be terrorists, criminals or undocumented immigrants.

The bill passed 249-175. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/10/13; HJ Res 79, Vote #540, 10/10/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for National Nuclear Security During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for nuclear weapons and non-proliferation programs under the National Nuclear Security Administration at post-sequester FY 2013 levels.

Speaker John Boehner said, “Ensuring the safety of our nuclear weapons arsenal and preventing the spread of nuclear technology to hostile regimes and terrorists are critical to America’s security. Senate Democrats shouldn’t let a disagreement over whether Americans should be treated fairly under ObamaCare jeopardize our national security.” [Speaker.gov, 10/11/13]

The bill passed 247-176. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/11/13; HJ Res 76, Vote #542, 10/11/13]

Voted for Defunding Program that Stopped Terrorist Attacks

In 2013, Luján voted for a measure that would limit the National Security Agency’s ability to collect electronic “metadata” information, including of phone and email records.

The amendment to the Fiscal 2014 Defense Appropriations Act would bar the NSA from using defense appropriations funds to execute Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court orders unless for “tangible things,” like incoming phone numbers and the length of calls.

The amendment was rejected 205-217. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 2397, Vote #412, 7/24/13]

ALTERNATE: Voted for Defunding Invasive Surveillance Program

In 2013, Luján voted for a measure that would limit the National Security Agency’s ability to collect electronic “metadata” information, including of phone and email records.

The amendment to the Fiscal 2014 Defense Appropriations Act would bar the NSA from using defense appropriations funds to execute Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court orders unless for “tangible things,” like incoming phone numbers and the length of calls.

The amendment was rejected 205-217. [CQ Floor Votes, 7/24/13; HR 2397, Vote #412, 7/24/13]

Voted for $512.5 Billion Defense Appropriations Bill

In 2013, Luján voted for a $512.5 billion Defense appropriations bill that continued the National Security Agency’s authority to collect phone records. The measure was $28.1 billion above the post-sequestration funding level, though $5.1 billion less than the fiscal 2013 enacted level before sequestration and $3.4 billion below President Obama’s request.

The bill would provide $82.3 billion for overseas contingency operations, most of which was for the war in Afghanistan, though reduced by $3.5 billion due to a successful amendment by South Carolina Rep. Mick Mulvaney.

Amendments to the bill increased funding to train investigators to review sexual assault related offenses and to identify individuals who were separated from the military on the grounds of a disorder subsequent to reporting a sexual assault, and if appropriate, correcting their record. [CQ News, 7/24/13]

The bill passed 315-109. [H R 2397, Vote #414, 7/24/13]

LABOR

Voted to Allow Unconstitutional Labor Appointments

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill to prevent the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from taking most official actions until the Senate confirmed new members, the Supreme Court upheld President Obama's recess appointments, or the first session of the 113th Congress ended. It would also invalidate every action taken since January 2012 that required a quorum.

Republicans called Obama's 2012 appointments to the NLRB "unprecedented." By ignoring the constitutional obligation to have the Senate advise and consent to his appointments, President Obama opened the door for a legal challenge to the actions taken by NLRB," Rep. Phil Roe wrote in The Hill. [The Hill, 4/10/13]

Rep. John Kline said on the floor, "The President's action was unprecedented, and a Federal appeals court has ruled it was also unconstitutional." [Congressional record, page H1963, 4/12/13]

The bill was approved 219-209. [HR 1120, Vote #101, 4/12/13]

Voted Against Working Families Flexibility Act

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would give private sector workers the option of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked.

The bill would allow working parents to choose how they want to be paid for their overtime, as either time and a half wages or time and a half paid time off. "It is pro-family, pro-worker legislation that gives workers the flexibility to spend time with family, attend parent-teacher conferences, care for aging parents, stay home with a newborn or attend to other family needs that may arise." [majorityleader.gov, accessed 5/08/13]

According to Republicans, the bill added safeguards to ensure the choice and use of comp time are voluntary, including:

The bill adds additional safeguards for workers to ensure the choice and use of comp time are truly voluntary, including:

- A requirement for a written agreement between the employer and the employee from which the employee can withdraw at any time;
- A "cash out" provision entitling an employee to receive any accrued comp time back in cash within 30 days;
- A provision requiring employers found to be in violation of coercion to pay "double damages," or the amount of comp time owed the employee and an equal amount in monetary damages. [roby.house.gov, accessed 5/08/13]

The bill passed 223-204. [HR 1406, Vote #137, 5/08/13]

Voted Against Giving Private Sector the Same Benefits as Government Workers

Luján voted against giving private sector workers the same benefits given to government workers, according to Republican talking points on the bill.

"Under current law, public-sector workers have the option to convert their overtime into comp time. This benefit is also included in many public-sector union collective bargaining agreements. House Republicans believe private-sector workers deserve the same flexibility to determine for themselves what to do with their overtime compensation," Rep. Pete Sessions said in a statement from the Rules Committee. [Pete Sessions press release, 5/08/13; HR 1406, Vote #137, 5/08/13]

Example of NRCC Press Release

Before the vote, the NRCC sent out this template quote targeting over 40 Democratic members.

The targeted Democrat "owes it to the thousands of working families [in state] to support this sensible legislation," said NRCC Communications Director Andrea Bozek. "Most mothers in American are part of our country's workforce, and it's time that Luján stood up for them and voted 'yes' for this reasonable, pro-family bill." [NRCC press release, 5/07/13]

After the vote, the NRCC released a statement saying that Democrats "owed thousands of working mothers and fathers in [this] district an apology after failing to stand up for their workplace freedoms, and instead, for the radical Pelosi agenda." [NRCC press release, 5/08/13]

> **64.4 percent of mothers with kids under 18 work for pay.** (As of 2010, per U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) ("Working Moms: The Data and the Politics." By Gary Langer, ABC News. 4/12/12)
>
> **The labor force participation rate–the percent of the population working or looking for work–for all mothers with children under age 18 was 70.6 percent in 2011.** ("Employment Characteristics of Families Summary." The Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4/26/12)
>
> **The legislation would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to allow employers to offer private-sector employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked.** (H.R. 1406, The Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013, Education & The Workforce Committee. 4/9/13)

MILITARY

Voted Against Funding National Guard and Reserve During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the National Guard and military reservists during the government shutdown.

The NRCC stated that House Democrats "should be ashamed" for "abandoning" the National Guard and military reservists. [NRCC, 10/03/13]

Speaker John Boehner said: "Earlier this week, the House and Senate unanimously voted to ensure our military is paid no matter what, and the president signed that measure into law. We should have no trouble coming together and extending the same relief to our National Guard and Reserves. These men and women make incredible sacrifices for our country, and they and their families deserve this certainty and fairness." [Speaker.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 265-160. [HR 3230, Vote #516, 10/03/13]

Cut Funding for Combat Troops Fighting Terrorism

In 2013, Luján voted for an amendment that would cut funding intended for combat troops fighting terrorism.

The amendment to the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would cut the authorized Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding level in the bill by over $5 billion. The funding was authorized specifically to support operations in Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism and goes directly to combat troops on the ground for military equipment operation and maintenance.

Democrats' "reckless vote to cut funding intended for our combat troops fighting terrorists overseas is disturbing and indefensible," said NRCC Communications Director Andrea Bozek. Democrats "cannot be trusted in Washington when [they vote] to cut funding for equipment like body armor for our military men and women serving our country in the world's most dangerous places." [NRCC press release, 6/14/13]

The amendment failed 191-232. [HR 1960, Vote #240, 6/14/13]

NRCC background on the NDAA:

> **The overseas contingency operations budget in the FY2014 NDAA is $5 billion more than the president's request in order to replenish readiness accounts used in prior years to cover underfunded war costs.** (CQ House Action Report, Fact Sheet No. 113-7, HR 1960, 6/11/2013)

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) includes funding for training, supplies and equipment maintenance, is considered the department's "readiness" account, it also includes funds for the Defense Department's administrative functions, environmental restoration, cooperative threat-reduction efforts and humanitarian assistance, as well as many other programs. (CQ House Action Report, Fact Sheet No. 113-7, HR 1960, 6/11/2013)

PERKS AND PAY

Voted to Block Pay Raise for Congress

In 2014, Luján voted for blocking a pay raise for Congress.

The measure, attached to the legislative branch appropriations bill, would freeze congressional salaries at $174,000 a year by blocking a scheduled pay raise in January 2015. The 1.6 percent scheduled hike would have given lawmakers a $2,800 pay raise. [Huffington Post, 5/01/14]

The bill passed, 402-14. [HR 4487, Vote #193, 5/01/14]

Voted to Stop Congress from Receiving Taxpayer-Funded Car Leases

In 2014, Luján voted to block lawmakers from using their official budgets to lease automobiles. [Huffington Post, 5/01/14]

The amendment failed, 196-221. [HR 4487, Vote #188, 5/01/14]

Voted Against Cutting Member Gym, Barber Shop, Salon, Dining Room

In 2014, Luján voted against the Republican budget proposal. The budget would direct the Committee on House Administration to find ways to cut funds for the House gym, barber shop, salon, and House dining room. [H Con Res 96, 4/01/14]

The budget passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Voted Against Banning First Class Airfare and Jets for Members

In 2014, Luján voted against the Republican budget proposal. The budget would ban using taxpayer funds to purchase first class airfare or lease corporate jets for Members of Congress. [H Con Res 96, 4/01/14]

The budget passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Voted Against Eliminating Free Healthcare for Life for Members

In 2014, Luján voted against the Republican budget proposal. The budget would eliminate free, taxpayer-funded healthcare for life for Members of Congress. [H Con Res 96, 4/01/14]

The budget passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Voted Against Requiring Congress Pass a Budget Before Being Paid

In 2014, Luján voted against the Republican budget proposal. The budget would require that Congressional pay be held in an escrow account if Congress failed to pass a budget on time every year. [H Con Res 96, 4/01/14]

The budget passed, 219-205. [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]

Supported Prioritizing Pediatric Cancer Research over Political Convention Spending

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would divert $126 from a fund set aside for national political conventions towards expanding pediatric cancer research at the National Institutes of Health. [Washington Post, 12/12/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "The bottom line is this bill is a choice between allocating monies for political conventions or for pediatric medical research- that's the choice." [MajorityLeader.gov, 12/11/13]

The bill passed 295-103. [HR 2019, Vote #632, 12/11/13]

Opposed Eliminating Taxpayer Funded First Class Airfare

In 2013, Luján voted against a budget that would forbid taxpayer funds from being used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress. [H Con Res 25, Vote #88, 3/21/13; Daily Caller, 5/06/13]

"In choosing not to support a balanced budget, but instead support taxpayer-funded first class airfare travel for him and his Washington allies, it's clear that [Democrat's] priorities do not rest with Arizona families," the NRCC said in a press release. [NRCC press release, 4/03/13]

Example of NRCC Attack Ad

The following script was released in Arizona, attacking Ron Barber.

Announcer: That didn't take long. Unfortunately for us, Congressman Ron Barber fits right in, in Washington, DC. While Arizona families are trying to live within their means, Ron Barber voted against balancing our budget. He even voted to allow Congressmen to fly first class on the taxpayers' dime. Out of touch Arizona Congressman Ron Barber. Fewer jobs for us. First class airfare for him." [NRCC press release, 4/03/13]

Voted Against Freezing Member Pay

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would extend the current statutory pay freeze for federal civilian employees, including Members of Congress, through the end of 2013. The bill would not affect an authorized increase in military pay.

The bill passed 261-154. [HR 273, Vote #44, 2/15/13]

Voted Against Allowing Recording of Talks with Federal Employees, Curb Their Benefits

In August 2013, Luján voted against the "Stop Government Abuse Act," a bill which would have allowed citizens to record conversations with most federal employees, curbed certain benefits, and place senior officials under serious investigation on unpaid leave.

The bill would cap bonuses at five percent of their salaries for senior career government officials during sequestration, and federal employees would no longer have received pay when on leave for serious investigation. [Washington Post, 8/01/13]

The bill was part of a series before leaving "Washington for a five-week summer break… aimed mostly at embarrassing the Obama administration and scoring political points." [Washington Post, 7/31/13]

The bill passed 239-176. [H.R. 2879, Vote #436, 8/01/13]

VETERANS

Supported $6 Billion Cut to Veterans Pensions

In February 2014, Luján voted against restoring pension benefits for veterans that had been cut the previous December. [Roll Call, 2/11/14]

Prior to the fix, military retirees' annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) had been cut by 1 percentage point, or by $6 billion over 10 years. [Army Times, 12/18/13]

The bill passed 326-90. [S 25, Vote #60, 2/11/14]

Voted for Budget Deal Cutting Veterans Pensions by $6 Billion

In December 2013, Luján voted for a budget agreement including $6 billion in cuts to military retirement increases.

The agreement would reduce annual cost-of-living increases for military retirees under 62 by one percent. The reduction would save $6 billion over the next decade.

The bill passed, 332-94. [HJ Res 59, Vote #640, 12/12/13]

Voted Against Critical Funding for Veterans Benefits During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan to provide funding for veterans programs, including disability payments, education benefits and home loans. The bill would also fund the Veterans Benefits Administration at an annualized rate of $2.5 billion to process disability claims. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/03/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "With the backlog of disability claims continuing to pile up and veterans being forced to wait longer and longer to receive their benefits, it is critical that the White House and Congress work together to support our veterans. President Clinton and Congress agreed to support veterans programs during the last government shutdown, and we should do the same today." [Speaker.gov, 10/03/13]

The bill passed 259-157. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/03/13; HJ Res 72, Vote #518, 10/03/13]

WALL STREET

Voted Against Increasing Financial Planning Costs for Families

In October 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan bill that would delay the implementation of Dodd-Frank requirements that would increase the costs of personal financial planning advice.

The New York Times reported: "One bill scheduled for a vote this week could temporarily restrain the Labor Department from imposing a new rule requiring some financial advisers to take on a fiduciary duty to clients when providing retirement investment advice. Such a duty would demand that the advisers act in the best interest of the client." [New York Times, 10/28/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said: "New regulations expected out of the Department of Labor however would increase the costs of these financial advisory services with little added benefit to those who receive the advice. The bipartisan Retail Investor Protection Act, seeks to prevent costly government over-regulation and protect hardworking middle class families who are simply doing their best to plan for the future." [MajorityLeader.gov, 10/29/13]

The bill passed 254-166. [HR 2374, Vote #567, 10/29/13]

Voted Against Bipartisan Bill to Repeal Burdensome Dodd-Frank Regulations

In October 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan bill to repeal part of the Dodd-Frank financial industry reform law to exempt some derivatives trading from new regulations.

The New York Times reported: "The bill, which passed by a 292-122 vote, would repeal a requirement in the Dodd-Frank law that big banks "push out" some derivatives trading into separate units that are not backed by the government's insurance fund." [New York Times, 10/28/13, 10/30/13]

Majority Leader Eric Cantor said: "The Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act is the second piece of legislation this week that the House passed to protect America's businesses and consumers from costly regulations and burdensome red tape [...] The House acted today to put an end to these onerous regulations and protect American businesses, farmers, manufacturers, and consumers from unnecessary federal over-reach." [MajorityLeader.gov, 10/30/13]

The bill passed 292-122. [HR 992, Vote #569, 10/30/13]

WOMEN

Opposed Ending Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

In January 2014, Luján voted against a bill that would permanently end taxpayer funding of abortion across all federal programs, including Obamacare.

Speaker John Boehner said: "While there is a patchwork of policies like the Hyde Amendment that prohibit taxpayer subsidies for abortion, none are permanent. This bipartisan measure codifies the Hyde Amendment and applies it across all federal programs, including the president's health care law." [Speaker.gov, 1/28/14]

The bill passed 227-188. [HR 7, Vote #30, 1/28/14]

Voted Against Funding for Women and Children Living in Poverty During Government Shutdown

In 2013, Luján voted against a bipartisan plan to provide funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children at post-sequester FY2013 levels.

The NRCC criticized that House Democrats put "Obama's government shutdown ahead of nutrition assistance for low-income families." [NRCC, 10/04/13]

Speaker John Boehner said, "These should be areas we can all agree on, but the president has threatened to veto these measures on top of refusing to sit down and talk altogether." [Speaker.gov, 10/04/13]

The bill passed 244-164. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/04/13; HJ Res 75, Vote #524, 10/04/13]

Voted Against Working Families Flexibility Act

In 2013, Luján voted against a bill that would give private sector workers the option of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked.

The bill would allow working parents to choose how they want to be paid for their overtime, as either time and a half wages or time and a half paid time off. "It is pro-family, pro-worker legislation that gives workers the flexibility to spend time with family, attend parent-teacher conferences, care for aging parents, stay home with a newborn or attend to other family needs that may arise." [majorityleader.gov, accessed 5/08/13]

According to Republicans, the bill added safeguards to ensure the choice and use of comp time are voluntary, including:

The bill adds additional safeguards for workers to ensure the choice and use of comp time are truly voluntary, including:

- A requirement for a written agreement between the employer and the employee from which the employee can withdraw at any time;
- A "cash out" provision entitling an employee to receive any accrued comp time back in cash within 30 days;
- A provision requiring employers found to be in violation of coercion to pay "double damages," or the amount of comp time owed the employee and an equal amount in monetary damages. [roby.house.gov, accessed 5/08/13]

The bill passed 223-204. [HR 1406, Vote #137, 5/08/13]

Example of NRCC Press Release

Before the vote, the NRCC sent out this template quote targeting over 40 Democratic members.

The targeted Democrat "owes it to the thousands of working families [in state] to support this sensible legislation," said NRCC Communications Director Andrea Bozek. "Most mothers in American are part of our country's workforce, and it's time that Luján stood up for them and voted 'yes' for this reasonable, pro-family bill." [NRCC press release, 5/07/13]

After the vote, the NRCC released a statement saying that Democrats "owed thousands of working mothers and fathers in [this] district an apology after failing to stand up for their workplace freedoms, and instead, for the radical Pelosi agenda." [NRCC press release, 5/08/13]

> **64.4 percent of mothers with kids under 18 work for pay.** (As of 2010, per U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) ("Working Moms: The Data and the Politics." By Gary Langer, ABC News. 4/12/12)
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> **The labor force participation rate–the percent of the population working or looking for work–for all mothers with children under age 18 was 70.6 percent in 2011.** ("Employment Characteristics of Families Summary." The Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4/26/12)
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> **The legislation would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to allow employers to offer private-sector employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked.** (H.R. 1406, The Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013, Education & The Workforce Committee. 4/9/13)

Voted Against VAWA Bill with Constitutional Safeguards

In 2013, Luján voted against the House Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act.

According to Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who introduced the bill, the House Republican version of VAWA "ensures and guarantees that grants to combat sexual assault are distributed equitably. It improves the ability for law enforcement to prosecute abusers. It better protects Indian women from domestic violence, and it safeguards constitutional rights to ensure justice for victims." [Congressional Record, page H743, 2/28/13]

The substitute amendment failed 166-257. [S. 47, Vote #54, 2/28/13]